

Hoover self serving

Dear George,

2/3/78

The pages of the FBI's JFK releases that included a few on Ford came today, just as I was leaving to take "oil shopping. I read them then and decided I wanted to make a few notes. On the chance some may be of interest to you a carbon of this will be my notes.

(If you can locate the others on Ford it would help Jim in the litigation, and I'd like to have a copy of the one in which Hoover called him a "toad" on the wall.)

62-109090- Not Recorded, W.S. Sullivan to A.H. Belmont 5/13/64, subject Angleton, etc.: That the first graf took attention I can understand but I think there are significant indications in the second, like Angleton (sic) did not have the complete answer worked out on suggestions for safeguarding the President. After almost a half year?

As are some of the other copies, this one was also directed to the Soviet Section. I wonder why. It has no Soviet content and no apparent relevance.

62-109090 - Not Recorded 6/30/64 Rankin to Hoover on the Oswald Diary leak: the resolution Ford proposed included an investigation of that leak and of any of the future but it did not propose any of the past be investigated. That made it safer for the FBI and others.

I'm sure that before this time the story of that leak was known. It is where O'Leary fingered Hugh Aynesworth, who may not have required fingering. Bill Alexander let Aynesworth have it. He got either \$4,000 or \$5,000 from LIFE, which then had to pay Marina either \$20,000 or \$25,000 to be safe and secure.

(An unrelated page 2 of a Ruby memo is attached.)

62-109090- Not recorded 4/17/64 Hoover to Ford, on party Ford's attended at DeLoach's home and using that as excuse to flatter Ford: This appears to be from Section 9, the only record you sent with such an indication. There is another file noted. It appears to be 94-40611. in the FBI filing code 94 is "RESEARCH MATTERS. Sounds like something other than normal research. On a dull day maybe you'd like to see if this is where they hid secret Congressional files?

62-109090 (possibly Serial 35 or 36) 12/12/63 DeLoach memo, probably to Mohr (illeg.)

News attention does naturally go to Ford and his being an informant for the FBI although a member of the Commission. But I see other interests. One is that so many of the Commission members did not want a man like Olney as general counsel. (Paul Hoch followed this aspect once we broke loose parts of the executive session on this, with the names obliterated, and correctly guessed Olney's was one of those names.)

It is not from the allegation of a "one man commission" when the chairman's choice becomes chief counsel. That is normal practise.

The transcript of that session reflects discussion somewhat less emphatic than this says Ford says it was.

Hoover's note approving Ford's claim to not wanting any word of the FBI's report out is no less self-serving than Ford's because Hoover had already leaked the essence of that report a week earlier. Ford is ridiculous in his pretenses because of this and the Commission's discussion of it. That was 12/5/63. Among those to whom there were leaks are O'Leary and Les Whitten, then with Hearst.

"Garrulous" is Hoover's odd comment on McCone's passing on a bum steer about the phoney Alameda Ugarte fabrication that he saw Oswald paid off at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. The CIA was passing on a bum steer even after forced to prove it false. As Rocca did in his 1975 memo to the Rockefeller Commission.

62-109090-Not Recorded, 7/13/64 Rosen memo on interviewing Ford over leak of LHO diary and attached DeLoach memo on his conversation with Ford, both duplicate filings: It is my impression that there was no mystery by this date, that the FBI had the whole story and knew it had no Ford connection. The name is Alexander, not Holmes but William.

There is a case, whether this one or another I'm not checking to see, in which Ford wanted to wave around an FBI clearance. I have it in facsimile in WW II. The FBI questioned Ford and nobody else and wrote him a letter saying he denied it all.

As I recall it Ford also made big speeches about his purity in executive session about leaks. I never did see how his word was better if given to an FBI agent than if given to his fellow Commissioners.

62-109090 Not Recorded, Hoover's 2/24/64 memo to his top brass, timed at 11/53 a.m. for his phone conversation with Lee Rankin and at 12:15 p.m. for what he told Joseph Sizoo, Domestic Intelligence. (Interesting that surveillance of Marina was assigned to Domestic Intelligence.

FBI prying into Marina's personal life, claimed danger to Commission.

P.1-Marina living at Ford's home. If this is Gerald Ford's (there was a Declan Ford she knew in the Dallas-Fort Worth White Russian community) he also was then working on his book.

Rankin asks for the surveillance after Marina had asked to be relieved of this by the Secret Service and Warren had agreed. But then Rankin had worried the Commission with his belief that without the Secret Service on her tail (vice Martin) she'd skip to Mexico.

On later pages the marks indicating withholding under exemptions like privacy are visible. Here the FBI people did not consider obliterating that Marina was having an affair with Martin.

Here and on following pages Hoover does not believe the Marina fairy tale that Oswald said he planned to shoot Nixon that day, a day Nixon was not in Dallas. Hoover also does not believe that she locked him in the bathroom. Hoover gives his reasons but they do not include an explanation of the locking of a bathroom door from the wrong side.

Inferences the story was made up for \$\$\$\$ it is still being retailed.

P. 3, more on Marina and Martin, with marks for obliteration visible -no obliterations on her sex life.

I'm sure that long before this the Marina-Martin story was known and to the Secret Service, despite this representation. My recollection is that the Secret Service reports indicate it began about Xmas, when Martin moved Marina from the Inn into his home, to his wife's strong objections. Hoover appears to have knowledge not reflected in available Commission files, on this, the affair.

The content marked for excision should have been excised under (b)(7)(C). No question about it. (That's teach Marina not to love the FBI!)

Hoover knew more about the Oswald picture with the rifle and more than that LIFE had and used it. (Could he have been putting Rankin on, to pretend that he did not know all the content of all the reports the FBI gave the Commission?)

Page 5- all the Mexico City leads (not described) "fizzle." Perhaps he meant on the question of conspiracy, or checking like of the Alvarado Ugarte and Diz Verson fairy tales.

Hoover's disbelief that Oswald shot at Walker because Marina said Oswald said it is interesting but his reflection of the testing (over to p. 6) is inadequate. The Dallas police had identified that bullet as 30 caliber. Hoover says only that there were not positive ballistics marks. So, for what purpose are they equipped for such other tests as spectrographic analysis? The only reason for not having done and quoted it is the certainty of what it would show - not Oswald's ammo.

Handling of the tap on Marina's phone is interesting. No Okay from the AG even asked. Hoover says it is his own idea, too.

Last page states she is living with a man - no privacy concerns.

62-109090 Not Recorded 1/10/64 Baumgardner to W.C.Sullivan on "COMMUNIST PARTY, USA COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM." Or converting the JFK assassination into ~~propaganda~~ propaganda and disruption activities.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ The FBI stated and the DJ argued the point in C.A.75-1996 that the FBI never reproduces copyrighted material. They do, but here they consider buying it for the operation. In it they mask the name of the right-winger who doped the idea out. Probably claim to 7C. But there is no real problem in identifying one who copyrights if the title is available. Here it is. Hoover noted OK, for the purchase of 500 copies and their use for disruption.

FROM :

C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT:

ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

I had a long talk this morning with Congressman Gerald R. (Gerry) Ford (R. - Michigan) in his office. He asked that I come up to see him. Upon arriving he told me he wanted to talk in the strictest of confidence. This was agreed to.

Each Ford told me he was somewhat disturbed about the manner in which Chief Justice Warren was carrying on his Chairmanship of the Presidential Commission. He explained that the first mistake that Warren made was his attempt to establish a "one man commission" by appointing a Chief Counsel, Warren Olney, that was his own protege. Ford stated that after the mention of Olney's name by the Chief Justice, at their first meeting, Allen Dulles, former Director of CIA, protested quite violently. Because of Dulles' protest, the other members told Warren that they would like to know more about Olney prior to giving their consent.

On the occasion of their second meeting, Ford and Hale Boggs joined with Dulles. Hale Boggs told Warren flatly that Olney would not be acceptable and that he (Boggs) would not work on the Commission with Olney. Warren put up a stiff argument but a compromise was made when the name of Lee Rankin was mentioned. Warren stated he knew Rankin and could work with him.

via Nicholas de B.

Ford told me that he was currently having problems inasmuch as the majority of the members of the Commission desired to go along with the recommendation made in Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach's letter to the Commission dated 12-9-63. In this letter, Katzenbach recommended that the Commission make an immediate press release pointing out that the FBI report clearly showed there was no international conspiracy or collusion and that Oswald was a loner. Ford stated he was a minority of one that did not want to give out any press release until the Commission had had a thorough opportunity to review and discuss the FBI report. (I noted that the report was on his desk at the time of our meeting.)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

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Oswald operated by himself and that Ruby additionally was a leger. However, FBI investigation was still pending on a large number of rumors, speculation and gossip and it, therefore, would be quite unfair for the Commission to take a stand prior to all the evidence being turned in. Ford stated this was his point entirely and that although he was a minority of one he intended to stick to his point.

Ford told me that John McCone, Director of CIA, had, approximately one week ago, gone up to his office and told him that CIA had uncovered some "startling information" in the Oswald case. McCone proceeded to tell Ford that a source of CIA's in Mexico had seen money exchange hands between Oswald and an unknown Cuban Negro. Ford stated this excited him greatly inasmuch as it definitely tended to show there was an international connection involved in the assassination of the President. *This shows how garrulous McCone is. H*

I told Ford that apparently McCone had failed to follow up on this matter. I mentioned that CIA's source had recanted his story and had indicated that it was a figment of his imagination. However, to prove the unstable tendencies of this source, the source had later claimed that he was actually telling the truth. I pointed out that we were still checking some angles of this, however, the CIA source was obviously either unstable or somewhat of a psychopathic liar. Ford stated he could certainly see this. *When will we finish? **

Ford indicated he would keep me thoroughly advised as to the activities of the Commission. He stated this would have to be on a confidential basis, however, he thought it should be done. He also asked if he could call me from time to time and straighten out questions in his mind concerning our investigation. I told him by all means he should do this. He reiterated that our relationship would, of course, remain confidential.

We have had excellent relations with Congressman Ford for many years. He has been given an autographed copy of the Director's book "A Study of Communism" and has been in touch with my office on numerous occasions in the past.

ACTION:

Contact will be maintained with Congressman Ford.

Well handled
H

* SEE INDEX
- 1 -
12-13-63
S. J. H. F.